

therebetween whereby said backing plate structurally supports said screening medium;

one of said screening medium and said backing plate having a plurality of circumferentially extending recesses formed in its opposing surface and opening at the opposing surface of the other of said screening medium and said backing plate at the interface thereof establishing communication between the respective openings of said screening medium and said backing plate;

a plurality of axially spaced projections spaced one from the other in the axial direction defining said recesses and projecting radially from one of said screening medium and said backing plate at said interface;

the openings in said screening medium being elongated and extending in a generally axial direction substantially normal to the circumferential extent of said recesses.

88. (Amended) A screen cylinder according to Claim [2] 1 wherein said recesses extend axially at least plural times the axial extent of said projections, said openings in said screening medium having [slots have] an extent sufficient to span in the axial direction two or more recesses.

1012. (Amended) A screen plate for screening pulp flowing therethrough comprising:

a screening medium having a plurality of [elongated contoured] slots therethrough and extending generally parallel

to one another, said slots having contoured portions on an inflow side of said screening medium;

1) a structural backing plate having a plurality of openings therethrough;

2) said screening medium and said structural backing plate lying in registration one with the other and having respective opposed surfaces in engagement with one another at an interface therebetween whereby said backing plate structurally supports said screening medium;

3) one of said screening medium and said backing plate having a plurality of recesses formed in its opposing surface and opening at the opposite surface of the other of said screening medium and said backing plate at the interface thereof establishing communication between the [respective] openings of said [screening medium and said] backing plate and said slots of said screening medium;

4) whereby pulp may flow sequentially through said [contoured] slots, said recesses and said openings in said backing plate.

13. (Amended) A screen plate according to ^{10 11} ~~claim 12~~ wherein said screening medium and said backing plate are cylindrical and lie one within the other, said recesses extending circumferentially and substantially uninterruptedly about said one of said screening medium and said backing plate, said [the] slots in said screening medium extending in a generally axial direction[, said recesses extending in said one

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opposing surface] and in a direction substantially normal to the circumferential extent of said recesses.

13. (Amended) A screen cylinder according to Claim 13
wherein said cylindrical screening medium has elongated outflow slots formed in the opposing surface of said screening medium in radial registry with said contoured [slots] slot portions and substantially coextensive therewith, reduced slots in registry with said contoured [slots] slot portions and said outflow slots and communicating therebetween, said recesses and said contoured slot portions being formed on the inflow [side] sides of said backing plate and said cylindrical screening medium, respectively, whereby pulp may flow sequentially through said contoured [slots] slot portions, said reduced slots and said outflow slots of said screening medium and then through said recesses and said openings of said backing plate.

Claim 20, line 1, delete "screening plate" and insert

--screen--;

line 2, delete "a screen plate for" and insert
--screening--; delete "plate" (second occurrence).

Claim 23, line 1, delete "screening plate" and insert

--screen--;

line 2, delete "a screen plate for" and insert
--screening--; delete "plate" (second occurrence);

line 21, delete "contoured".

Add the following claim:

claims
12-13

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-32. A screen cylinder according to ~~claim 13~~ wherein said cylindrical screening medium has reduced slots in registry with said contoured slot portions and in communication therewith, said contoured slot portions and said recesses being formed on inflow and outflow sides of said screening medium, respectively, whereby pulp may flow sequentially through said contoured slot portions, said reduced slots, and said recesses of said screening medium and then through said openings of said backing plate.

REMARKS

With respect to Claim 3, applicants have amended the claims to substitute for the term "slots" the term "openings" which had previously been recited. Claims 2, 5 and 16 have been cancelled.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Jameson et al. is respectfully traversed. The Examiner states that Jameson et al. discloses a screen filter comprising a cylindrical screening medium and a backing plate but does not identify those elements in Jameson et al. In Jameson et al., there is provided an inner cage which has a plurality of openings 2 extending radially therethrough. Those openings terminate along the outer face of the cage 1 in parallel grooves 7 which may extend parallel or normal to the axis of the drum, i.e., either axially or circumferentially. Wrapped about the outer surface of the inner cage 1 is a filter medium 3 which essentially, as seen in Figure 7, is a screen